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HOUSE MEMORIAL 98

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Jeff Steinborn

A MEMORIAL

LAUDING ALLEN AND VIRGINIA CRANE AND REQUESTING THE PUBLIC
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONSIDER THE ADOPTION OF THE VISION AND
READING TECHNIQUES DEVELOPED BY THE CRANES TO IMPROVE READING
FOR CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE.

WHEREAS, Allen and Virginia Crane have dedicated their
lives to helping children overcome reading challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Cranes have researched how underlying
problems, such as poor vision and allergies, affect reading
ability in various subgroups in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the Cranes have served southern New Mexico since
1997 by offering exemplary programs to treat reading failure in
at-risk students and to increase reading fluency,
comprehension, vocabulary and decoding skills in wider
populations; and

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1 WHEREAS, Allen and Virginia Crane have provided free
2 training for teachers in public and private schools to
3 implement the Crane reading program and increase student
4 success; and

5 WHEREAS, the reading program was adopted by the Las Cruces
6 Lions clubs, and, with the clubs' help, by 2008-2009, the Lions
7 Crane reading program had helped almost two thousand five
8 hundred children in four school districts across southern New
9 Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, the Lions Crane reading program was chosen as one
11 of the top three Lions service projects in the world, out of
12 forty-five thousand Lions clubs in ninety-three countries, at
13 the Lions clubs international meeting in Tokyo in July 2005;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the Cranes incorporated the nonprofit New Mexico
16 Lions Crane reading foundation, which is supported by grants
17 and donations to provide vision care and reading programs for
18 children in New Mexico; and

19 WHEREAS, students participating in the six-week summer
20 2008 Lions Crane reading program demonstrated a doubling of
21 average reading speed with over eighty percent comprehension,
22 and students who were scheduled to repeat their last year's
23 grade became eligible for promotion to the next grade after
24 participating in the summer program; and

25 WHEREAS, the Lions Crane reading program at Gadsden high

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1 school has resulted in reading improvements of between two and
2 four grade levels in one semester, with a few students
3 increasing their reading levels as much as eight grades; and

4 WHEREAS, testimonials from participating public schools in
5 the Cobre consolidated school district show that the reading
6 program developed by Allen and Virginia Crane is making a
7 remarkable difference in reading scores; and

8 WHEREAS, the ability to read is basic not just to success
9 in school but to success in life;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Allen and
12 Virginia Crane be honored for their extraordinary efforts to
13 improve the lives of New Mexico citizens by helping them to
14 read; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
16 department be requested to follow up on the proclamation issued
17 by Governor Bill Richardson on July 30, 2004, in which he
18 encouraged schools and parents to adjust desk heights and
19 provide eye examinations for all students, to determine if
20 strides have been made in securing these important components
21 of the Lions Crane reading program for public school students;
22 and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department evaluate the
24 program's components and techniques and consider adopting them
25 for use in New Mexico public schools to improve reading scores

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1 and other indices of adequate yearly progress required by the
2 federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department report its
4 findings and recommendations to the legislative education study
5 committee by November 1, 2009; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to Allen and Virginia Crane, the public education
8 department and the legislative education study committee.

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